

1407.0.55.001 - ABS.Stat - Beta: Web Browser User Guide, 2014

Latest ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 30/04/2014



Introduction

Includes: Information about ABS.Stat Beta and its various features as well as descriptions of concepts, dimensions and what search functions are available.



The ABS.Stat Web Browser

Includes: The functionality of the web browser interface: Table View (including pivot table features), Merged Queries, Metadata and Full Text Search.



Customise Selection

Includes: How to define your data selection by dimensions, dimension members and lay out options.



Customise Table Option

Includes: Customising your table by using code options (e.g.: geography), setting decimals, removing empty rows and other functions.



Exporting Data

Includes: How to export data from ABS.Stat in various formats - Excel, Text File or SDMX (XML).



Viewing Metadata

Includes: Viewing metadata at different levels and where to access metadata within ABS.Stat.



Working with Queries

Includes: How to combine one or more queries.



Drawing Charts

Includes: Drawing Bar, Line and Scatter Plot Charts.



Printing Data from the Browser

Includes: Options for printing queries.



Providing Feedback

Includes: How to contact us and tell us what you think about ABS.Stat.

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Introduction

About ABS.Stat

ABS.Stat is an interactive, free online tool that presents datasets in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. ABS.Stat presents users with two options, a web browser to view, query and download data and a web service to facilitate machine to machine communication via the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX). The web service enables other organisations to interface with ABS.Stat and customise the data in their own environments.

The ABS.Stat web interface allows you to:

- search and discover ABS statistics
- query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- view valuable metadata alongside the data
- export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

Access to ABS.Stat is open and free of charge.

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The ABS.Stat Web Browser

The online window to the ABS.Stat data warehouse is provided by the ABS.Stat Web Browser. This browser has been designed to allow both experienced and new users to rapidly locate and retrieve statistical data and related metadata.

Main features include:

- Table View– construct queries, view data, flags and metadata from a table that includes a number of pivot features for customising the data layout.
- Merged Queries – combine queries to allow cross-dataset comparisons along common dimensions.
- Metadata Access - access all metadata from dataset level down to observation or data point / series footnotes and data flags.
- Full Text Search - rapidly locate series across datasets, data dimensions and metadata.
- Dynamic graphics – visualise data dynamically in a line chart, bar chart or scatter plot chart.

Features in the future will include:

- Links to the latest versions of the most Frequently Requested ABS Data (CPI, GDP figures, etc.)
- Data Basket - save data queries for later viewing, and share them with others.
- Microdata Viewer - access transaction-level microdata as well as aggregate macrodata.

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Customise Selection

Once you have made your data selection, you can select from the icon action bar.



The icon action bar

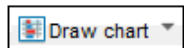
Select the:



button to customise the dimensions, dimension members and layout of the current table.



button to save you selection as an Excel, Text file (CSV) or SDMX file.

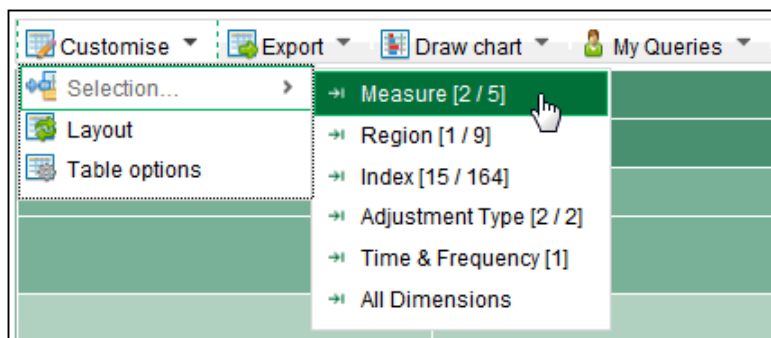


button to create charts based on your table.

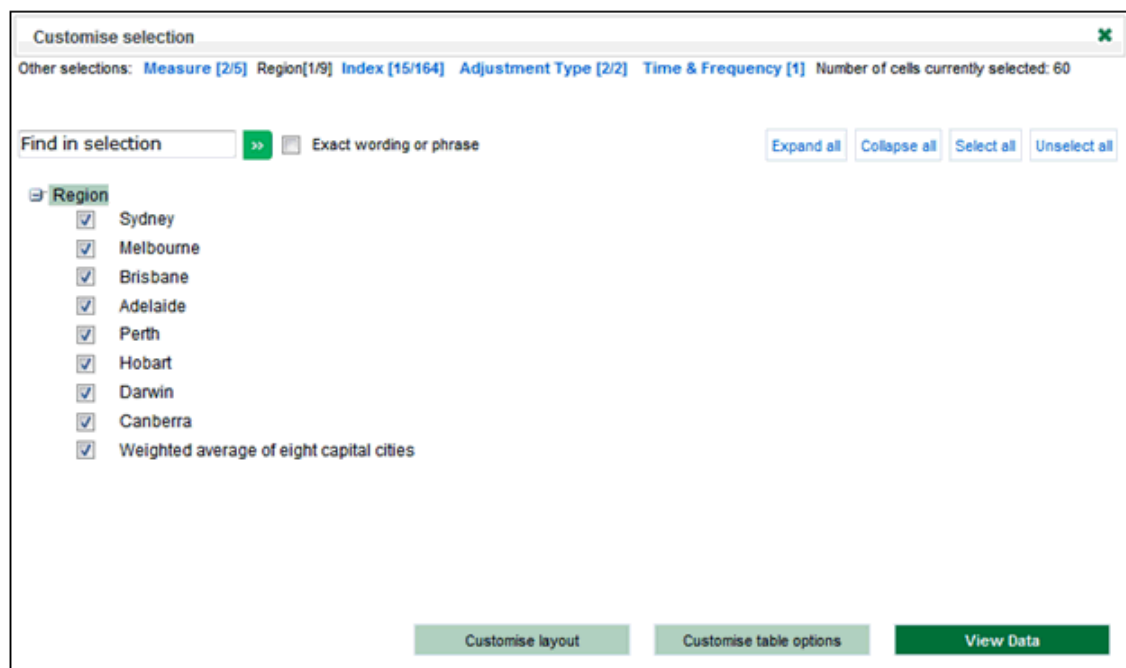


button to add your current table view as a query for further work.

The **Customise - Selection** information shows the dimensions of the dataset with an indication, in brackets, of the number of items, or members, selected in each dimension. If you click a dimension title, a list of the members you can choose from will be shown. You will need to select at least one item from each component of the data selection (e.g. measure, region, index and time). In each menu once you have ticked the items you want you also need to press select.



Customise selection drop down menu



The customise selection window showing the region dimension

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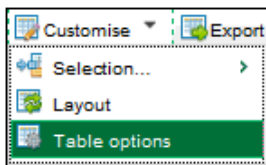


Customise Table Option

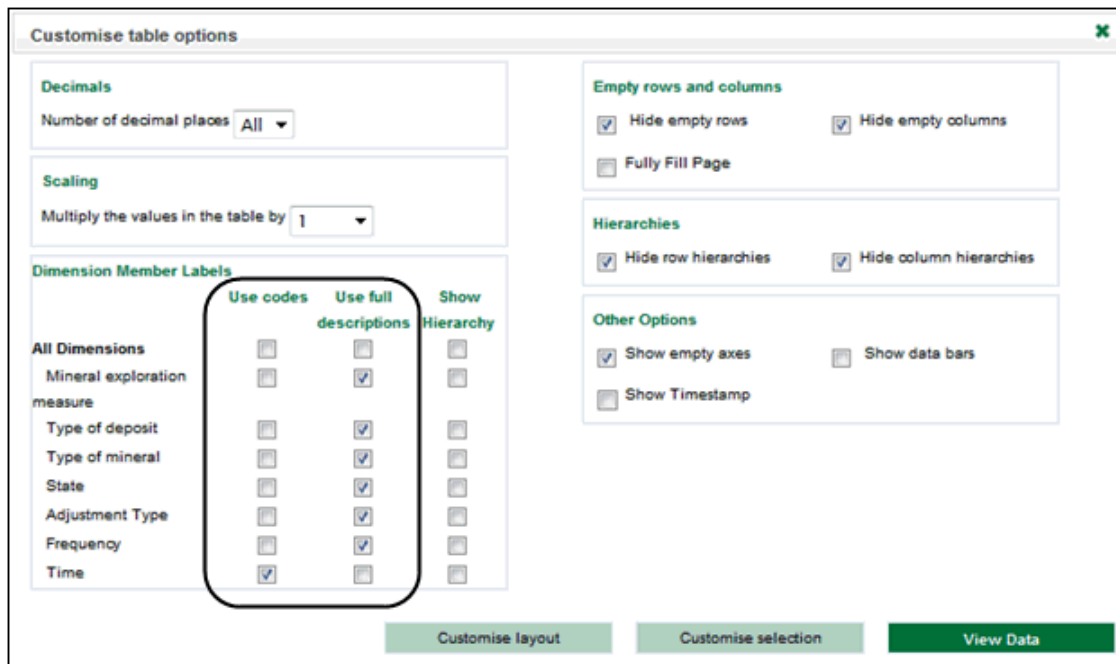
Showing Codes Instead of Names

All datasets, dimensions and dimension members in the data warehouse have short codes as well as names. The codes can be displayed instead of names, by using the option **Use Codes** instead of full descriptions. Many other options are available such as setting decimals, removing empty rows, fitting pages, charting and others.

To use codes instead of names, select the **Table Options** icon found in the **Customise** drop down. Under the **Use codes** option, select the dimensions you want displayed with codes by clicking on the boxes, and then deselect **Use full descriptions**. When finished making your selection, click **View data**.



The Customise drop down



Dimension Member Labels	Use codes	Use full descriptions	Show Hierarchy
All Dimensions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral exploration measure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of deposit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of mineral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustment Type	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Customise Table window showing the Use Codes option

Mineral Exploration 				
<div> <div>Customise</div> <div>Export</div> <div>Draw chart</div> <div>My Queries</div> </div>				
Type of mineral	Total			
State	Australia			
Frequency	Quarterly			
Adjustment Type	Original			
Mineral exploration measure	Expenditure (\$ Millions)			
Type of deposit	Total deposits	New deposits	Existing deposits	
	▲ ▼	▲ ▼	▲ ▼	
Time				
2011Q3	983.4	313.1	670.3	
2011Q4	1 032.4	323.6	708.8	
2012Q1	876.1	248.6	627.5	
2012Q2	1 061.1	357.7	703.4	
2012Q3	894.7	303	591.7	
2012Q4	823.9	263.4	560.6	
2013Q1	672.2	176.3	495.9	
2013Q2	664.6	275.7	388.9	

Table showing codes instead of names

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Exporting Data

Once you have located data, you can export it in the following formats:

- Excel
- Text File (CSV)
- PC –axis – (Ready Made Files – not yet available)
- SDMX (XML)

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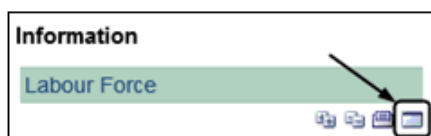
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Viewing Metadata

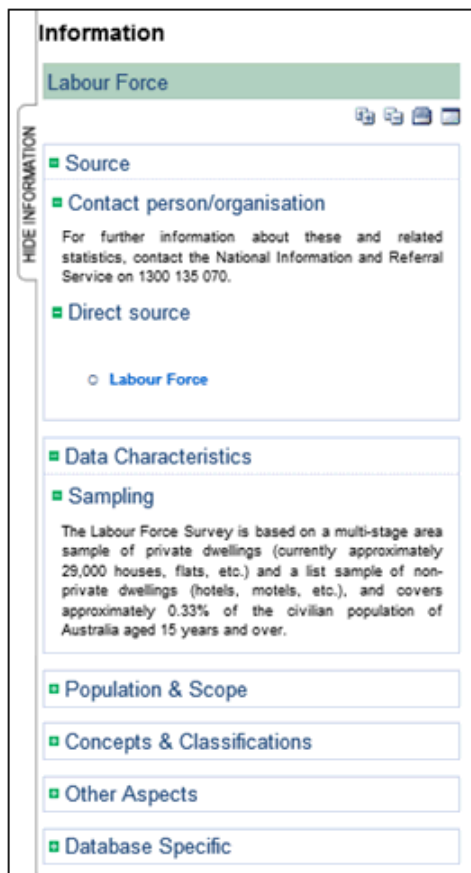
Metadata can be viewed at all levels, from the dataset-level abstract down through to cell level footnotes. The presence of metadata is flagged by a small red **i**. Clicking on the red **i** will bring up the related metadata window in the right-hand area of the screen.

Clicking the  button will open the metadata window in a new browser tab.



Opening metadata in a new tab

You can hide metadata from the main screen by clicking the 'HIDE INFORMATION' tab.



Footnotes and Dataset-Level Metadata

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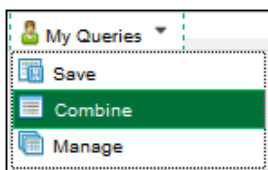
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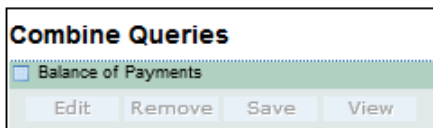
Working with Queries

Creating a merged query

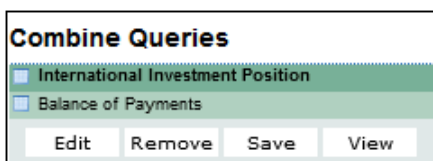
To create a merged query, first select the datasets required and then view the merged table. Select a dataset and then click on the **Combine** query function found under the 'My Queries' dropdown menu.



This dataset will then register at the top left hand side of the screen under 'Combine Queries'.



Select another dataset and again click on the **Combine** query function found under the 'My Queries' dropdown. This dataset will also register under the 'Combine Queries' section. You will find options to Edit, Remove or View.



Repeat this for each dataset that you want to include in the multi-dataset query. When all selections of data have been added, click **View** to see the combined data table.

Any common dimensions between the different datasets will be automatically combined. Other dimensions will automatically be displayed along the vertical axis, underneath section headings indicating their original dataset.

Customise

Export

							Frequency	Quarterly			
							Time	Sep-2012	Dec-2012	Mar-2013	Jun-2013
								▲▼	▲▼	▲▼	▲▼
Adjustment Type	Data Item	Measure	Maturity	Industry	Currency	Sector	Dataset: International Investment Position				
Original	Net International Investment Position	Position at beginning of period [\$ million]	Total	Total	Australian Dollar	Total	831 140	834 991	838 057	848 096	
		Changes in position reflecting - transactions [\$ million]					16 104	16 232	10 320	5 571	
		Changes in position reflecting - price changes [\$ million]					-5 242	-12 376	-10 508	-7 400	
		Changes in position reflecting - exchange rate changes [\$ million]					-6 277	-51	11 548	-29 180	
		Changes in position reflecting - other adjustments [\$ million]					-734	-728	-830	-740	
		Position at end of period [\$ million]					834 991	838 057	848 096	858 900	
Data Item	Measure	Adjustment Type	Dataset: Balance of Payments								
Current account	Current Prices (\$ Millions)	Original									
			-16 230	-16 204	-9 732	-5 480					
	Goods and services credits		74 686	75 102	71 695	79 160					
	Goods and services debits		-80 833	-82 180	-72 179	-76 130					
	Goods and services		-5 947	-7 078	-484	3 020					
	Primary income		-10 053	-8 899	-8 513	-8 090					
	Secondary income		-230	-227	-435	-410					
	Capital and financial account		15 806	15 972	10 018	5 250					
	Capital account		-238	-260	-302	-310					
	Financial account		16 104	16 232	10 320	5 570					

Two datasets combined to form a Multi-Dataset Query

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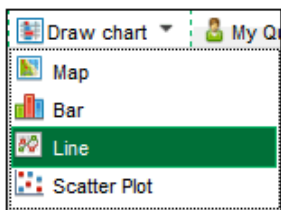


Drawing Charts

The 'Draw Chart' tool allows users to create maps, line charts, bar charts and scatter plot charts using the current data selection.

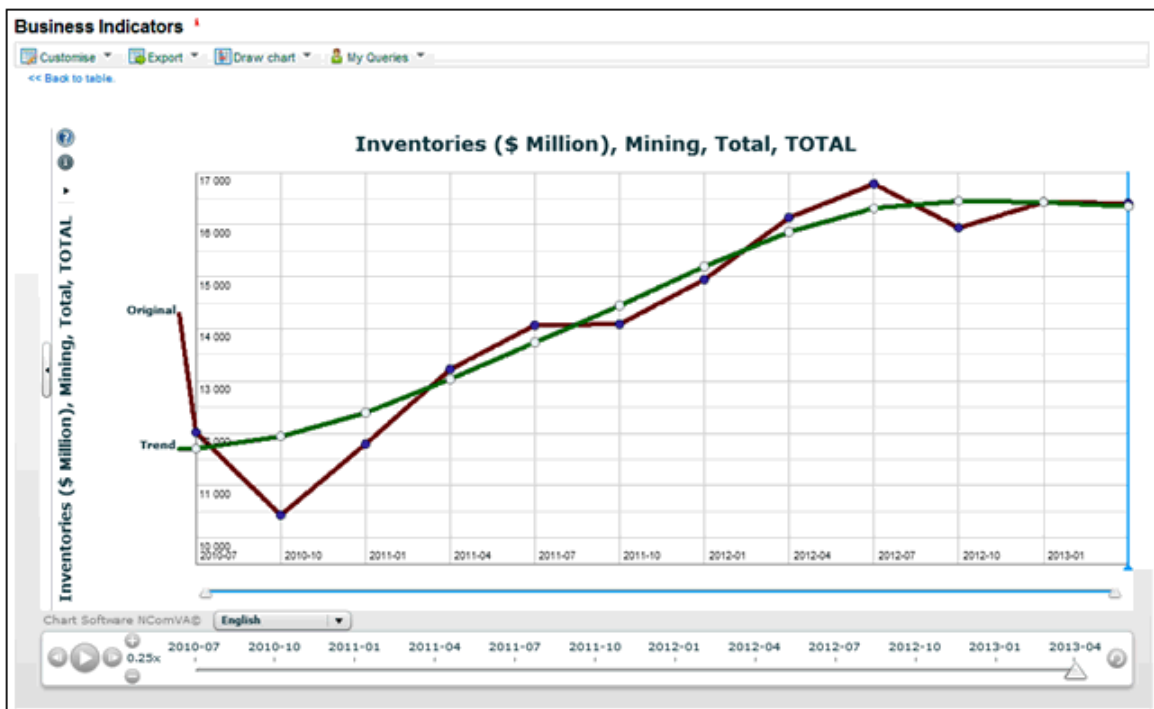
The charting function allows a maximum of 10,000 data points so limit the data selection in your table before creating a chart.

To create a chart click on the **Draw Chart** button, then choose **Map**, **Bar**, **Line** or **Scatter Plot**.



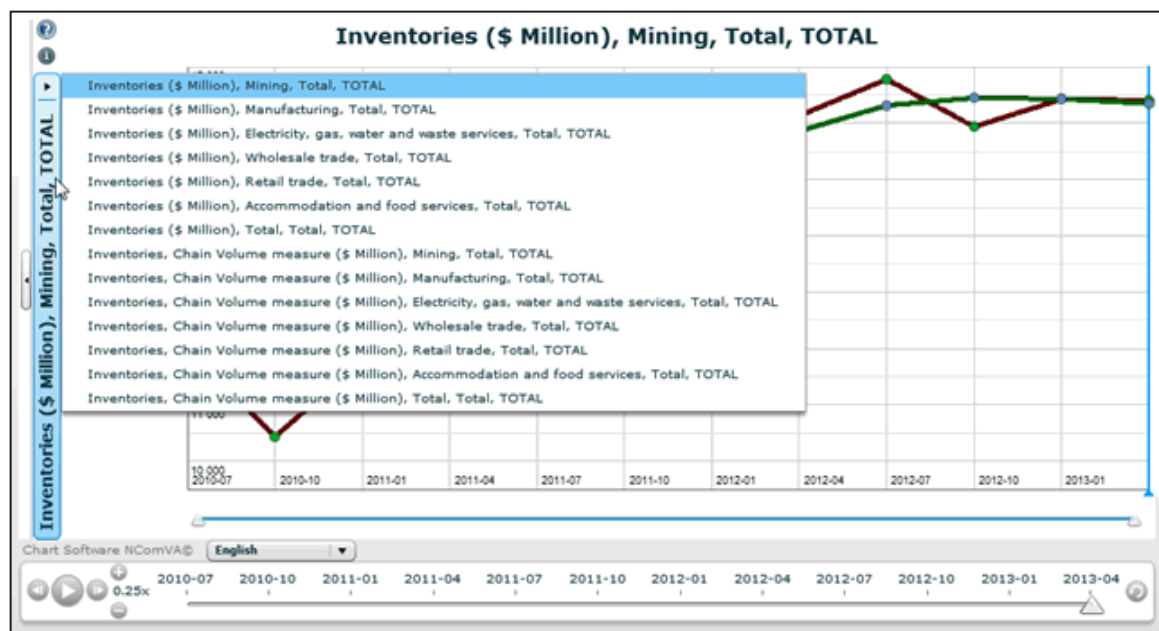
The Draw Chart drop down menu

The chart will be created dynamically based on your table. To make changes to your chart click the Customise button and adjust your dimension selections or layout.



A line chart created from the 'Business Indicators' table

Clicking on the name of the Y-axis will allow you to choose the dimension measured by the Y-axis.



Choosing the dimension measured by the Y-axis

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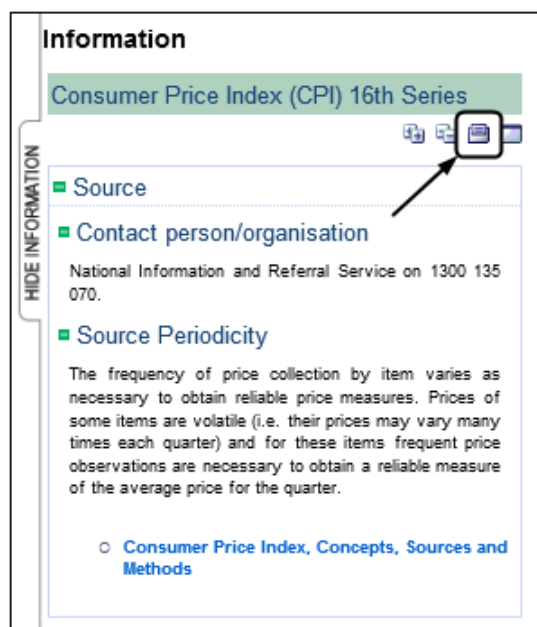


Printing Data from the Browser

It is not possible to print data directly from the browser. If you wish to print data from ABS.Stat it is recommended you first export your table as an excel file and then print from excel.

Information on exporting to excel can be found in the Exporting to Excel page of this user guide.

To print metadata from ABS.Stat, after clicking either the red **i** or blue **i** you require, click on the print button in the Information Panel and metadata will be printed.



Printing Metadata

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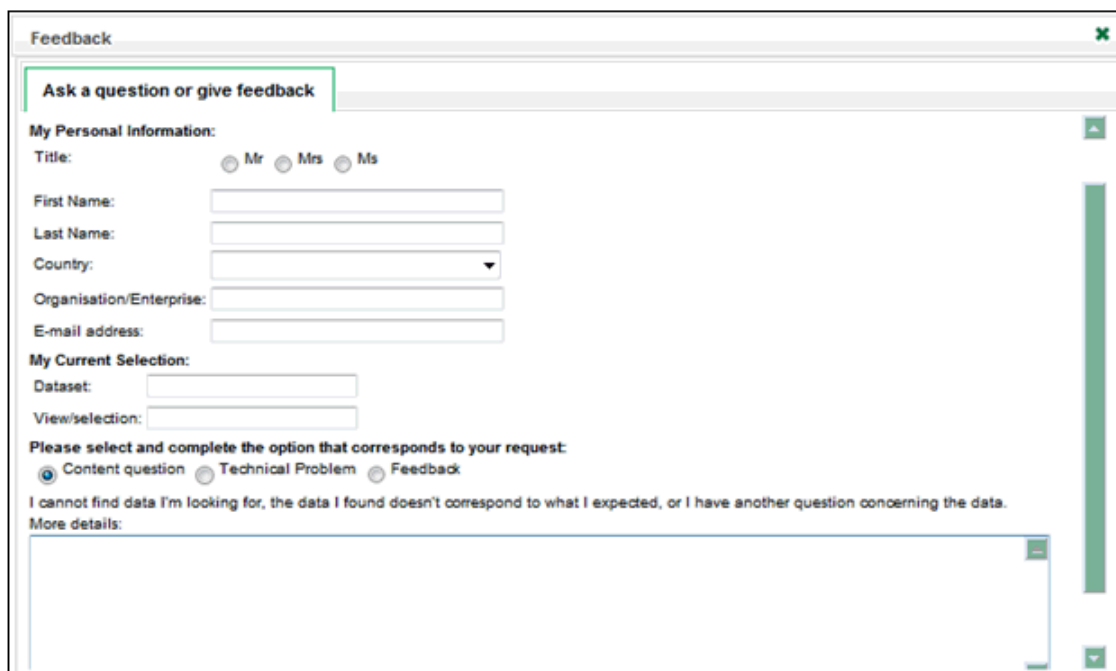


Providing Feedback

You can contact us by selecting the **Feedback** tab, found at the top right hand side of the screen.

Please note that in order to address your concerns in a timely manner, we have set up three separate request options.

- A content question will provide responses regarding the actual data content of ABS.Stat (e.g., Do you have data on shoe manufacturing?).
- Technical problem should be used for any technical questions or bugs that you encounter.
- Feedback can be used for sending comments, suggestions and observations about the system.



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Feedback". The form is titled "Ask a question or give feedback". It contains sections for "My Personal Information" (Title, First Name, Last Name, Country, Organisation/Enterprise, E-mail address) and "My Current Selection" (Dataset, View/selection). Below these is a section for "Please select and complete the option that corresponds to your request:" with three radio buttons: "Content question" (selected), "Technical Problem", and "Feedback". A text box follows with the prompt "I cannot find data I'm looking for, the data I found doesn't correspond to what I expected, or I have another question concerning the data." and a "More details:" label above a large text area.

Sending feedback to the ABS.Stat Project Team

You can also email us directly at abs.stat@abs.gov.au.

The **Contact Us** tab in the top right hand side of the screen will take you to the Contact Us page of the ABS website.

The **User Assistance** tab in the top right hand side of the screen will open this guide in a new window of your browser.

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ABS.Stat Beta is a free interactive online tool that presents ABS aggregated data in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. The web browser interface allows you to view, query, customise and download data to your own requirements.

This user guide will help you understand how to use the ABS.Stat Beta web browser, including how to find a dataset, view associated metadata, search for and select variables, customise tables, and export data.

This version includes information on the charting functionality and the availability of RESTful web services. It also reflects the change in the ABS.Stat colour scheme from a blue to green palette.

The ABS.Stat Beta Video Tutorials has also been updated.

The user guide will be updated from time to time as ABS adds further functionality to the system.

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